

No Room for Broom!



Looks pretty, but....it's a major fire hazard!

Scotch broom facts

- Introduced to Vancouver Island in 1850.
- Highly invasive, broom spreads quickly on open, disturbed soil.
- Each plant produces thousands of seeds every year.
- Seeds last over 30 years in the soil and sprout when the soil is disturbed.
- Extremely flammable, alive or dead.
- Cut or pulled plants leach toxins into the soil.
- Chokes out native plants.
- Rare and sensitive ecosystems such as Garry Oak meadows have been invaded by broom.

Seasonal control methods

When	Soil	Cut	Pull
Early spring	Wet	✓	✓
Plants in bloom	Drying	✓	✗
Summer	Dry	✓	✗
Fall	Moist	✓	✗
Late fall	Wet	✓	✓
Winter	Wet	✓	✓

Photos: Simon Henson

Management

- **Stem smaller than a pencil?** Hand pull in winter. Avoid disturbing soil (hold down with your foot and tamp down soil after plant removed).
- **Stem larger than a pencil?** Cut at or below ground surface with loppers or pruning saw; cover stump if possible.
- **Broom growing on rock?** Cut—don't pull—to reduce disturbance of shallow soil.
- Cut when broom is in bloom or during drought to reduce regrowth.
- Seed disturbed areas with native grasses to prevent more broom invasion.

Disposal

- **Large amounts:** Transport to site where it can be safely burned according to fire regulations or take to Blackburn or Hartland landfills.
- Move cut plants on tarp to avoid spreading seeds.
- **Small amounts** (with no seeds): Scatter on site or compost under a fir tree .
- For dates of future organized drop-offs, check the SSI Conservancy website: www.saltspringconservancy.ca

More information

www.goert.ca

www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca

www.broombusters.org

